

5 Dec 1983

My Uncle Wilson "Red" Burnett has always been such good friends with Garland Sawyer that I've never questioned his relationship. I assumed he was related to my family.

Last year Billie Borders came to Monticello searching for Sawyers she was related too. She gave me a list of her Sawyer family. In my visits with members of my family I always ask about some of the names on Billie's list. No-one in my family had ever heard of any of the names.

Recently I received a new inquiry from Betty Bristow through Ollie Faye Sawyer Sanderlin, that made me dig back into my family list to see who belonged to it. Although none fit into any of my family groups it appears to be the same group of Sawyers that Billie Borders has inquired about. During this search I realized that I didn't have Garland Sawyer listed, so I called him and Audry. That conversation tied together what appears to be a different group of Sawyers that I haven't been able to fit into any of my family groups.

Garland Sawyer's father was Jesse Sawyer. His mother's name was Florence Carrington. According to the old marriage book (in Drew County) Jesse Sawyer 21 years old married Florence Carrington 21 years old on the 8th of Jan. 1905. Garland's Grandfather's name was Lafayette Sawyer and his Grandmother's was Missouri.

Both Jesse and Florence are buried at Selma Cemetery. Jesse R. Sawyer was born June 7, 1885 and died July 4, 1924. Florence C. Sawyer was born Dec. 7, 1882 and died Jan. 18, 1962. Also buried at Selma is Benjamin H. Sawyer born March 12, 1880 died Aug. 27, 1953. Sarah Ann Sawyer born June 11, 1873 and died Dec. 22, 1921. Veda Louise Curtis Sawyer born March 29, 1924 died Feb. 21, 1981. Garland did not know where Lafayette and Missouri Sawyer were buried.

From the Lincoln co. old marriage book at Star City, Ark. I found a Lafayette Sawyer 22 years old married Missouri Nealey 20 years old on July 20, 1871. Although the spelling is not accurate there is also a Wm. A. Sawers 22 years old that married Sarah J. Miles 18 years old on Aug. 5, 1873, I believe this is the same William Sawyer found listed on the 1880 census in Prairie Township, Drew county, (page 25, District 91) that has a brother named Jesse A. Sawyer living with him. There is a William S. Sawyer buried at old Union cemetery. He was born June 15, 1881 and died March 22, 1961. I do not know who he belongs to. There are two members of my Sawyer family buried there also.

The children I have learned that Lafayette and Missouri Sawyer, had are Loper, Jesse, Chat, Will (or Bill), and a daughter that married a Martin. This sounds like the family listed in the 1900 census with Mary M. Sawyer. I have been told that Jesse Sawyer had not been married before he married Florence Carrington.

As far as I know now the children of Jesse and Florence Sawyer are Frank married Mrs Ruby Free 28 Feb. 1945, Garland married Audry Sheperd 1 Jan. 1947, Chat married Callie Taylor 24 Dec. 1901, Lela married W.P. Hood 9 March 1928, and another girl that married Jim Weatherall. I think there is possibly another son named Jimmy but have not confirmed this yet.

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Chat and Callie Sawyer are buried at old Piney Cemetery (it's listed as being Primitive Baptist) along with two of their children. On the monument (Chat) C.J. Sawyer born 1879, died 1934. Mary Callie Sawyer was born March 20, 1881 and died Dec. 13, 1956. A.T. Sawyer, ARK. P.F.C. 1565 Engr. Depot Co. WWII, born Oct. 27, 1907 died May 27, 1967, their son. The daughter, Rosa L. Sawyer born Jan. 4, 1903 died Aug. 13, 1918. Chat and Callie had another daughter named Katie May Sawyer 23 years old married Ira Hollaway 25 years old on Feb. 24, 1934 in Drew County. There is a W.J. Sawyer born July 20, 1874 died Oct. 16, 1918 also buried at Old Piney Cemetery at this time I don't know to who he belongs.

Loper Sawyer 21 years old married Georgia Lane (for some reason I failed to write down her age) Sept. 21, 1911 Drew County Ark. The only child that I know of at this time is Earl Sawyer. In Drew County I found a Earl Sawyer 21 years old married Lela Mae Lain 19 years old on Nov. 19, 1945. I'm am almost positive that I have heard Earl's wife called Evelyn so I don't know if there are two Earl Sawyers or not.

In the Drew County records there is a J.P. Sawyer 23 years old married Viola McHand 20 years old on Aug 25, 1898. I'm almost positive this is the Viola Sawyer whose father was Thomas J. McHand found in the 1900 census records.

There are only 3 other Sawyers buried in Drew county that I haven't identified. They are Lula Sawyer born March 28, 1909 and died Feb. 13, 1935 and Walter S. Sawyer born June 6, 1929 died Dec. 29, 1934. These two are buried at the Center Point Cemetery. Then at Mt Pleasant (also known as Campground) where most of my Sawyer family is buried there is a Maggie E. Sawyer born Feb. 14, 1908 died Dec. 16, 1973. I don't know who she belongs to.

I'm not sure what relation Garland said Hugh Sawyer was but I beleive he told me that Hugh's, wife Sally, was his mother's sister. When I looked them up at the court house I found Hugh Sawyer 22 years old married Sadie Carrington 23 years old on March 2, 1902. The children of Hugh and Sally that I've heard of are William Edward, Vada Mae, Sallie, and Etta Sawyer. William Edward Sawyer 29 years old married Veda Louise Curtis 18 years old on Aug 19, 1941. I believe Etta is supposed to have married a Durham.

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For the past couple of years I have been intermittently working on a family tree. The Sawyers are related to me on both sides of my family.

My grandmother, Velma Sawyer Burnett, was a daughter of Joseph A. Sawyer (Called Joe) and his second wife, Sallie Beard Calhoun. Joseph was supposed to have came to Arkansas first, then Sallie and the children followed after Eva, their oldest child was born in 1882. Some members of Joseph's family were supposed to have already been here but I don't know who.

In Drew County Arkansas on Dec. 14, 1902 L.H. Sawyer (Lafayette) 23 years old married Bertha Myhand 18 years old. Bertha Myhand is a neice of my father's grandfather, F.F. Myhand. According to my family Lafayette Hill Sawyer is a son of James Chaple Sawyer (Jim) and his first wife, Harriett E. Davis (Hattie). James Chaple Sawyer is a brother to my mother's, Grandfather, Joseph A. Sawyer.

To complicate things I've found at Star City, Arkansas, Lincoln County, on the 20th of July 1871 Lafayette Sawyer married Missouri Nealey. I think I'm dealing with two different Lafayettes. I think this Lafayette is the son of the Alex Sawyer found in Springhill Township in the 1860 census. If so who was Alex Sawyer's father? There is Samuel L. Sawyer (the L. could stand for Lafayette), a half brother to James Chaple and Joseph A. Sawyer, but I've never heard if he married and had children or not. The stories conflict, some of our family believe that Samuel L. was killed in the Civil War, while others say it was Enoch Sawyer, who was killed and buried some where in Virginia. Do you know the facts about this?

From the stories told James Chaple and Joseph A. Sawyer's father Zadock, married four times. Talk among my family is that Zadock first married Elizabeth Williams. William, Francis, and John Sawyer were named as sons of this marriage. We do not know the name of Zadock's second wife but she may have been a Sanderlin. Samuel L., Enoch, and Zadock Jr. were the sons and Elizabeth (liza), Martha, and Margarett, were the daughters of this marriage. His third wife Elizabeth Carter would be my great-great grandmother. James Chaple, Joseph A., Tom, and Robert Sawyer are the sons of this union. The only daughter named was Susan (called Susie), that married Will Calhoun. Zadocks fourth wife is supposed to have been Susan Calhoun, his son-in-law, Will Calhoun's sister. As far as my family remembers this marriage did not produce any children.

I have received inquiries about a Jesse Adams Sawyer. Jesse Adams married in Idaho in 1898. Do you know of a Harrison Sawyer? He lived in Springhill Township about 1860. How about Ansel Sawyer and son Thomas J. Sawyer that lived in Jackson township in Union County ~~Arkansas~~ in the 1870's? I've not been able to connect any of these Sawyer families with mine.

Our Sawyer families appear to have migrated from North Carolina to Georgia, then through Tenn. into Arkansas. From Arkansas they really scattered.

Can you help me with any information about Sawyer families? I'd be glad to share the pitiful little I have about my Sawyer family.

In search of my ancestors; Sincerely

Jerry M. Naron

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